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General

Indonesia consists of an archipelago of 17,508 islands that extends up to about 3,100 miles along the Equator between the mainland of Southeast Asia and Australia. The archipelago forms a natural barrier between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. The main islands are Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), Borneo (the S part of Kalimantan), and Irian Jaya (W half of New Guinea). Indonesia shares land borders with Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

The terrain consists of mostly coastal lowlands but the larger islands have interior mountains and some volcanoes.

The climate is mostly tropical being hot and humid, while somewhat moderate in the mountain areas.

The former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which was abandoned in 1975, was occupied by Indonesia and claimed as the province of Timor Timir. The United Nations does not recognize Indonesian sovereignty over this territory. In 1999, the population of East Timor voted for independence. Shortly thereafter, the Indonesian parliament concurred with the vote. After a short period of United Nations administration, East

Timor became the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on May 20, 2002.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Cautions

Rigs

Movable oil drilling rigs and production platforms may be encountered off the coasts of Indonesia and in open waters. Buoys associated with the drilling operations are frequently moored in the vicinity of these structures. The positions of these rigs and buoys are frequently changed and are generally promulgated by radio navigational warnings.

Piracy

It was reported (1995) that vessels have been attacked by armed thieves in the vicinity of the Malacca and Singapore Straits, mainly near Phillip Channel. These attacks were usually made from fast motor boats approaching from astern. Loaded vessels with low freeboards seem to be particularly vulnerable.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) of the International Chamber of Commerce has established a Piracy Countermeasures Center at Kuala Lumpur. This center operates for the Southeast Asian Region and is able to receive reports from vessels concerning attacks and advise of danger areas. Piracy warnings originated by the center will be broadcast daily to NAVAREA XI, VIII, and X through Enhanced Group Calling using the SafetyNET System.

For further details the IMB Center can be contacted, as follows:

IMB Piracy Reporting Center
 ICC International Maritime Bureau
 P.O. Box 12559
 50782 Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia
 Telephone: +60-3-2031-0014
 Facsimile: +60-3-2078-5769
 Telex: MA31880 IMBPCI
 E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org.uk

IMB Piracy Reporting Center Home Page

http://www.iccwbo.org/ccs/menu_imb_piracy.asp

Buoyage

Within Indonesian waters, lights and buoys are considered unreliable, being frequently irregular, extinguished, missing, or off station.

General

For further information concerning dangers in the vicinity of Sumatera (Sumatra) and the Malacca Strait, see Singapore—Cautions.

For further information concerning dangers in Indonesian waters, see Pub. 120, Sailing Directions (Planning Guide) Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the rupiah, consisting of 100 sen. It was reported (1997) that sen are no longer used.

Government



Flag of Indonesia

Indonesia, which gained independence from the Netherlands in 1945, is a republic. The President, assisted by a Cabinet, is the head of government and chief of state. The legislative branch includes a 500-member House of People's Representatives; 462 members are elected to 5-year terms, while the remaining members are appointed from the armed forces. The People's Consultative Assembly, which consists of the members of the House of People's Representatives plus 200 government appointees, meets every 5 years to choose the President, who may serve an unlimited number of terms.

The legal system is based on Roman/Dutch law, substantially modified by indigenous concepts.

The capital is Jakarta.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday	Varies
Nyepi Saka	Varies
Ascension Day	Varies
Waisak	Varies
Independence Day	August 17
Christmas Day	December 25

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include the Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad (Isra Mi'raj), Eid Al-Fitter (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), and the Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (Maulid).

Industries

The principal industries include petroleum and natural gas production, textiles, shipyards, chemical factories, automobiles, cement, fertilizers, livestock raising, timber, mining, fishing, and tourism.

The main agricultural crops include rice, maize, sweet potatoes, copra, sugarcane, rubber, palm oil, tea, coffee, fruits, nuts, tobacco, and cloves.

Languages

The official language is Bahasa Indonesia (a modified form of Malay). English, Dutch, and several local dialects, the most common of which is Javanese, are also used.

Mined Areas

Danger Areas

Indonesia has declared the following areas dangerous due to mines which were laid during WWII:

1. The area of water bounded on the N side by the S coast of Palau Lingga, on the E side by 104°48'E, on the S side by 0°29'S, and on the W side by the NE coast of Palau Singkep and 104°32'E.
2. A swept channel S of Palau Lingga, clear for all types of vessels, is bounded, as follows:
 - a. On the N side by a line joining 0°20'06"S, 104°32'00"E and 0°23'06"S, 104°48'00"E.
 - b. On the S side by a line joining 0°21'30"S, 104°32'00"E; 0°22'00"S, 104°35'00"E; 0°23'18"S, 104°39'48"E; and 0°24'54"S, 104°48'00"E.
3. A recommended track near Selat Berhala lying between 0°54'00"S, 104°18'00"E and 0°54'00"S, 104°35'00"E.

Due to the lapse of time, proceeding through these mine-fields, whether they have been swept or not, is now considered

no more dangerous from mines than from any other of the usual hazards to navigation. However, in the unswept areas a real danger still exists with regard to anchoring, fishing or carrying out any form of submarine or seabed activities.

For further information concerning mine danger, firing practice, and restricted areas in the vicinity of Indonesia, see Pub. 120, Sailing Directions (Planning Guide) Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Regulations

Vessels are advised not to anchor in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore Strait between the landward limit of the Traffic Separation Scheme or precautionary area and the adjacent port limits. Vessels are to anchor only in designated areas.

For information concerning Navigation Rules for the Malacca and Singapore Straits, see Singapore—Regulations.

National Flag

The Indonesian national flag should be flown at sea by all foreign vessels when in Indonesian waters. It should be flown not lower than any other flag and should not be smaller than the vessel's national ensign or any other flag displayed.

Search and Rescue

Ship Reporting System

STRAITREP is a joint Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore mandatory ship reporting system in the Straits of Malacca and

Singapore. For further information on STRAITREP, see Singapore—Vessel Traffic Service—Reporting Systems.

Time Zone

Indonesia is covered by multiple Time Zones, as follows:

1. Western Zone (Bangka, Belitung, Jawa, Madura, Sumatera, West Kalimantan, and Central Kalimantan)—The Time Zone description is GOLF (-7). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

2. Central Zone (Bali, Flores, South Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Lombok, Sulawesi, Sumba, Sumbawa, and West Timor)—The Time Zone description is HOTEL (-8). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

3. Eastern Zone (Aru, Kai, Moluccas, Tanimbar, and Irian Jaya)—The Time Zone description is INDIA (-9). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Jalan Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5, Jakarta, 10110.

The mailing address is Unit 8129, Box 1, APO AP 96520.

U. S. Embassy Indonesia Home Page

<http://www.usembassyjakarta.org>